

651-297-4467

February 14, 2005

Dear Interested Applicant for Forest Stewardship Funds:

Enclosed are copies of the FY 2006 Request for Forest Stewardship Grant Proposals. The deadline for submission of a proposal is May 3, 2005 and this year faxed proposals will not be accepted.

The packet includes applications for both "Information/Education" and "Technical Assistance" funds. Technical assistance always involves preparation of Forest Stewardship plans and one-to-one assistance to landowners. Educational proposals also target private landowners, but can use very diverse methods. Please select one category per proposal. You may submit more than one proposal, however multiple technical assistance proposals should be submitted at the same time.

Depending on requests and the state's fiscal situation, approximately \$330,000 is expected to be available for Forest Stewardship grants for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005. The purpose of the funding is to provide educational and technical assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners to manage their land using ecosystem-based concepts. The funding is part of the national Forest Stewardship Program, which is administered by the United States Forest Service through the state forestry agencies. Additional funding is provided from the DNR-Forestry's general fund appropriation and a grant from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.

All projects are reviewed and ranked by the 30 member State Forest Stewardship Committee. The Minnesota DNR Forestry Director makes the final decisions based on the committee's recommendations.

Examples of past funding recipients are on the reverse side. We appreciate your interest and encourage you to call if you have any questions regarding the application procedure.

Remember, a hard copy of each application must be received by May 3, 2005. (Faxed copies will not be accepted.) Do not wait until the last moment to mail the application. Feel free to call me (651-297-4467) or Sharon Schmitz (651-297-7298) to confirm the receipt of your application.

Sincerely,

Doug Anderson Committee Chair

cc: Mike Carroll - State Forester Tom Baumann Larry Himanga Regional PFM Program Leaders and Area PFM Program Leaders Forest Stewardship Committee

# List of Some Past Partners and Projects Using Forest Stewardship Funds

Since 1991, ecosystem based Forest Stewardship plans have been written on over 1,000,000 acres of Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF) land. This was achieved through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Division of Forestry and many partners such as those listed below.

20+ Consulting Foresters Forest Stewardship plan writers

Deep Portage Conservation Reserve Multiple Use Forest Management video

Fond du Lac Reservation Forest Stewardship plan writer

N. St. Louis County SWCD Forest Stewardship plan writer

Koochiching SWCD Forest Stewardship plan writer

Minnesota Forestry Association Woodland Advisor Program

MN DNR-Wildlife Prescribed Burning brochure

MN DNR-Wildlife Managing Woodlands for Non-game Wildlife

brochure

Northern Forestry Inc. (Consultant Forester) Forest Stewardship plan writer

Ruffed Grouse Society Managing Woodlands for Woodcock brochure

The Nature Conservancy Cannon Valley Big Woods Forest Stewardship

plan writer

The Nature Conservancy Managing Landscapes in the Big Woods

Ecosystem brochure

University of MN-Forest Resources Recreational Trails publication

University of MN-Forest Resources Extension Forestry in SE Minnesota

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

& Ruffed Grouse Society & DNR-Wildlife

Forest Stewardship plan writer

Wabasha County SWCD Forest Stewardship plan writer

3 Forest Industries

(Participated without requesting Forest Stewardship Funds.)

Forest Stewardship plan writer

## MINNESOTA FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

# Request For <u>Education / Information</u> Proposals February 14, 2005

Application Deadline: Delivered no later than - May 3, 2005

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry, through the Forest Stewardship Committee, is seeking proposals to be funded by the Forest Stewardship Program. Proposals must be aimed at educating or informing Minnesota's Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF) landowners about stewardship of their natural resources. Related research proposals are also eligible. Several topic areas suggested by the Stewardship Committee this year include a workshop on songbird management for landowners or natural resource professionals, a workshop for plan preparers on road and trail construction, publications or training on invasive species, and landscape training for natural resource professionals including landscape goals, native plant communities and Ecological Classification Systems.

Approximately \$50,000 may be available to fund education /information proposals. Applications may be submitted by individuals, organizations, corporations, or public agencies. The funding source is Forest Stewardship funds provided by the U.S. Forest Service.

Proposals cannot exceed \$25,000 each. Organizations may submit more than one proposal. Projects that can be accomplished with one funding grant are recommended.

Project proposals must follow the attached format. Proposals should not exceed four (4) pages. No supplemental materials are requested.

Please submit an <u>unfolded</u> original with typing on only one side of each page. Submit the proposal by May 5, 2005 to:

Doug Anderson - State Forest Stewardship Committee Chair DNR-Division of Forestry 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4044

Projects will be reviewed and ranked by the all members of the Forest Stewardship Committee. Final decisions will be made by the Director of the Division of Forestry. Announcement of successful projects will occur in late June. The grant period will be from September 1, 2005 until August 31, 2006. A brief 1-2 page project report (attached) will be required on December 15 and at six-month intervals thereafter until the project is completed.

All funds will be distributed through contracts. Payment will be made as measurable achievements are accomplished. NOTE: All printed materials for landowners should be bid as finished product, punched for 2 or 3 holes unless otherwise instructed by the Stewardship Committee. Most projects will be for 10,000 copies.

For further information about the Forest Stewardship Program or the project proposal process, please contact: Doug Anderson 651-297-4467.

(Format = 4 pages maximum, including the budget form. PLEASE follow this format as closely as possible to assure full consideration of your proposal.)

## MINNESOTA FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM Education / Information Proposal

**Date of Application** 

**Project Title** 

Applicant's Name, Title, Telephone Number

Organization Name (if any)

Address

Name/address/phone of DNR-Division of Forestry person who has agreed to be the grant contact person. (DNR-Forestry person must review proposal before it is submitted)

Other Key Persons or Organizations Involved (if any)

**Project Description** 

Objectives Describe what will be accomplished and how it will affect non-

industrial private forest landowners.

Methods Describe how the project will be implemented, geographic area of

impact, target audience, and timetable showing dates of major

activities or accomplishments.

Evaluation Describe what results are expected and how they can be measured.

History (Only for applications to extend existing forest stewardship grants - An

extra page is allowed.) Describe significant accomplishments and

associated costs.

Budget Describe the budget in the attached table. Indicate funding sources

including Forest Stewardship and other sources. Matching funds are not required, but if offered, may increase the ranking of the project.

(See the back of the budget sheet for definitions.)

# EDUCATIONAL PROPOSAL BUDGET SHEET

Projec	t Title		

Expense Categories	Forest Stewardship Funds Requested	Non-Forest Stewardship Program "Matching" Inputs (\$)				
(Use as needed)		Direct Cash	In-Kind Redirected staff or funds	In-Kind ongoing expenses	Row TOTAL	
Salaries, fringe, etc						
Supplies, postage						
Office, equipment						
Vehicle, Mileage						
Travel (meals/motel						
Training						
Indirect costs, overhead, supervision						
Printing (10,000+)						
Other (Describe)						
Other						
Other						
Column TOTAL						
	(AA)	(BB)	(CC)	(DD)	(EE)	
TOTAL PROJECT CO	Funds are of Total		-AA/EE):	_%		
Organization(s) provi	iding matching	Non-Forest Stewardship Program "Matching" Inputs (\$)				
inputs		Direct Cash	In-Kind Redirected staff or funds	In-Kind ongoing expenses	Row TOTAL	
Column TOTAL						

=(CC)

=(DD)

(BB+CC+DD)

=(BB)

## Definitions of "Matching" Inputs:

Direct cash: Includes cash offered exclusively toward the proposed Forest Stewardship project. The cash offered would not be available to fund this project if the stewardship funds are not provided. Could include staff, contractors, or materials that are exclusively offered. May include funds from applicant's organization, but not under the discretion of the applicant.

In-Kind redirected funds: Includes staff, materials or funds that are being redirected from existing projects to work on the proposed Forest Stewardship project. Existing staff would have a significantly different job description because of this proposal.

In-kind ongoing expenses: Includes items such as office rent, phones, training, and program administration costs.

A final accomplishment report (1-2 pages) will have to be completed before final payment is made. This will be in the same format as the progress report.

# STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION PROJECT PROPOSAL RATING FORM (Not to be completed by applicants - provided for your interest only)

The 30 member state Forest Stewardship committee selects the proposals recommended for funding. The following criteria are suggested as a method to rank proposals. However, each committee member makes their own decisions which cumulatively result in the committee's funding recommendation.

Projec	t Numbe	r Title
<u>Scale</u>	Score	Evaluation Criteria
1-10	_	Project is an effective means to directly educate NIPF (family forest) landowners or the natural resource professionals who advise them?
1-10	_	Project reaches a significant number of NIPF (family forest) landowners (directly) or the natural resource professionals who advise them?
1-20		Project is an economical use of Stewardship funds (considering the number of people reached and effectiveness of the education methods)? Specifically, the Committee considers partnerships that contribute dollars or other support that either reduces the State dollars needed or increases the number of landowners reached.
1-10		Deals with a natural resource issue of regional or statewide importance.
1-5	_	Potential to reach landowners who have not previously received assistance from a natural resource advisor.
1-5		The organization and key people involved are qualified to handle the project?
1-5		Project does not duplicate another organization's work (but does promote cooperation)?
1-10		Project addresses a priority identified by the State Stewardship Committee?
-10-0	_	Status of previously funded projects: If organization has not previously been funded by Stewardship Program. score = 0. If previous project(s) is of acceptable quality and on time score = 0. If previous project(s) is of unacceptable quality or not on time, score from minus 1 to minus 10 points.
	_ Total S	core

END OF EDUCATION/INFORMATION MATERIAL

Questions or comments:

## MINNESOTA FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## Request For <u>Technical Assistance</u> Proposals February 14, 2005

Application Deadline: Delivered no later than - May 5, 2005.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry, through the Forest Stewardship Committee, is seeking proposals aimed at improving multiple-use, ecosystem-based management of Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF) lands in Minnesota. Proposals must provide technical assistance for individual landowners using Forest Stewardship plans as the starting point. It is estimated that \$330,000 will be available for a 12-month period beginning September 1, 2005. The State Forest Stewardship Committee reserves the right to limit contract size, or the dollars awarded to individual contractors, to meet budget constraints or insure geographic distribution of technical assistance.

Applications may be submitted by private sector (for-profit and non-profit) individuals, organizations, corporations and local government units. Anyone approved or willing to be approved as a Forest Stewardship plan provider may apply.

Projects that can be accomplished with a one-year funding grant are recommended. Please plan on funds being expended by August 31, 2006. Please don't bid more than you can complete. Project proposals must follow the attached format. Proposals should not exceed four (4) pages. A local DNR-Forestry representative <u>must sign</u> the bottom of attachment B.

Applicants should submit a separate proposal for each DNR area in which they desire to work. Special certification will be needed from the Dept. of Administration for applicants whose total contracts exceed \$25,000 per year.

Please submit an <u>unfolded</u> original with typing on only one side of each page by May 3, 2005 to:

Doug Anderson - State Forest Stewardship Committee Chair DNR-Division of Forestry 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4044

NOTE: If the plan writer for the proposal has not submitted a sample Stewardship plan in the last two years, there needs to be one submitted with the application. If you have a current plan writing contract, you have submitted one.

Project proposals will be evaluated on their ability to deliver technical assistance directly to landowners in a professional and cost-effective manner. All work through the proposal must meet or exceed the standards established by the Minnesota DNR Division of Forestry and the Forest Stewardship Committee. Projects generating direct land management activities are preferred. (see attached evaluation criteria)

Projects will be reviewed and ranked by the all members of the Forest Stewardship Committee. The Director of the DNR Division of Forestry will make final decisions. Announcement of successful projects will occur in late June 2005. Successful applicants can expect contract to begin September 1, 2005. NOTE: All funds will be distributed

through contracts. Payment will be made as measurable achievements described in Attachment B are accomplished.

The applicant must be approved as a plan writer by the State Forest Stewardship Committee for the duration of the contract period, September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006.

For further information about the Forest Stewardship Program or the project proposal process, please contact: Doug Anderson at 651-297-4467.

(Format = 4 pages maximum, including the budget form and attachment B. PLEASE follow this format as closely as possible to assure full consideration of your proposal.)

## MINNESOTA FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM Technical Assistance Proposal

Date of Application:

**Project Title:** 

Applicant's Name, Title, Telephone Numbers, e-mail:

Organization Name (if any):

#### Address:

Name/address/phone of DNR-Forestry person who has agreed to be the contract contact person. Both the applicant and the DNR-Forestry person MUST SIGN the bottom of attachment B. Applications without this signature will not be accepted.

Other Key Persons or Organizations Involved (if any):

Project Description: (You will be judged by what you write, so please be clear, informative, concise, and neat.)

Objectives: Preparing Forest Stewardship plans and providing landowner assistance for projects are the usual objectives. Briefly describe your objectives and why you are qualified to assist Non-Industrial Private Forest landowners.

Methods: Describe how the project will be implemented by your organization, geographic area of impact, any particular target audiences, and techniques of cooperation. This section should include the name and plan preparer ID for each that will prepare plans under the proposal. If an individual is not currently an approved plan preparer, it should state the reason and status of an application for approval.

Targets: Use the enclosed sheet (Attachment B) to enter goals for the specific accomplishments that will occur if the proposal is funded. Use whole numbers and be as accurate as possible. **NOTE:** A DNR-Forestry employee who concurs with the proposal and agrees to serve as contract administrator must also be named **and sign** Attachment B.

Evaluation: Accomplishments will be measured and reported on forms provided by the DNR unless otherwise suggested and approved.

Budget: Describe the budget in the attached table form. Indicate funding sources including Forest Stewardship and other sources. Matching funds are not required, but if offered, may increase the ranking of the project. It is acceptable for all costs for technical contracts to be lumped under salaries.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET SHEET

Projec	t Title	

ESTIMATED BUDGET (may be handwritten)						
Expense Categories	Forest Stewardship Funds	Non-Forest Stewardship Program "Matching" Inputs (\$)				
(Use as needed)	Requested	Direct Cash	Row TOTAL			
Salaries, fringe, etc (It is acceptable for all costs for technical contracts to be lumped here)						
Other (Describe)						
Other						
Other						
Column TOTAL						
	(AA)	(BB)	(EE)			
TOTAL PROJECT COST (EE =AA+BB): \$  Percent Stewardship Funds are of Total Project Cost (FF =AA/EE):%						

BUDGET INCOME	
Organization(s) providing matching inputs	Non-Forest Stewardship Program "Matching" Inputs (\$)
	Direct Cash
Column TOTAL	
	=(BB)

Direct cash: Includes cash offered exclusively toward the proposed Forest Stewardship project. The cash offered would not be available to fund this project if the stewardship funds are not provided. Could include staff, contractors, or materials that are exclusively offered. May include funds from applicant's organization, but not under the discretion of the applicant.

If the applicant is not providing a match, this page is optional.

# ATTACHMENT B --- Deliverables and Rates

PROJECT TITLE:							
TOTAL FOREST STEWA	ARDSHIP FUNDS (A	A): \$	TOTAL PRO	JECT COST	(EE): \$		
PERCENT STEWARDSH	HIP FUNDS ARE OF	TOTAL PROJECT CO	OST (FF):	%			
	******	******	*******	******			
ACTIVITIES to be accomplished	GOAL		MAXIMUM ALLOWED 125% of goal (			STATES RATE (S	S'S SHARE \$)/UNIT
(use as needed)		otherwise indicated.					
(Ente		'States Share" columr he maximum rates fo					
New Forest Stew Plans *Continued in 2005 - The considered when estimates	ere will be a paymen	t of \$200 for each pla		dition to the		price. T	his should be
Revised Forest Stew Plan	nsAc.			\$100+_	/acr	e \$100 +	/acre
NOTE: The allocation fo Stewardship Plans and im of the Contract Administra of Forestry.	plementation will only tor. <b>Reimbursement</b>	be reimbursed for tho will only be made for	se projects comp projects compl	oleted that ar	e requested b	y and und	er the direction
Reforestation Completed	Ac.			\$	/project	\$	/project
Natural Regen Completed	dAc.			\$	/project	\$	/project
Regen Survey Completed	dAc.			\$	/project	\$	/project
T.S.I. Completed	Ac.			\$	/project	\$	/project
Wildlife Habitat Complete	dAc.			\$	/project	\$	/project
Water Quality Completed	Ac.			\$	/project	\$	/project
				S	/project \$		
NOTE: Implementation of of the total project cost.	projects may not exce	eed 30% of total projec	t costs and the all	location for th	ne remaining r	ows cann	ot exceed 20%
News Releases	Ea			S	/each \$		_/each
Field Days	Ea			S	/each \$		_/each
General Assistance _	Hrs			S	/hour \$		_/hour
Names of persons who co	ompleted this attachn	nent: (Must be sign	ned by both)				
Contractor Signature Contractor Name		DN	IR-Forestry Sign IR Forestry Nam	ature ne			

Quality Bonus – Subject to budget constraints, \$100.00 may be paid at the end of the contract from additional funds for each stewardship plan where a questionnaire is returned with everything marked "excellent" or "very good". The plan must also be registered and involve a face-to-face visit.

Reverse side to be determined by the applicant (contractor) and the person likely to be the State's authorized agent.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

- X New Forest Stewardship Plans refers to acres of Woodland Stewardship plans completed for landowners with either no existing Forest Stewardship plan or an out-dated property-wide plan that is more than 12 years old. (as determined by DNR). Reimbursement shall not exceed \$200 + \$4.50 per acre for non-government and \$200 + \$2.00 per acre for units of Government.
- X Revised Forest Stewardship Plans refers to acres of Woodland Stewardship plans completed for landowners with existing propertywide plans that are between 6 and 12 years old. (as determined by DNR). Reimbursement shall not exceed \$100 + \$4.50 per acre for non government and \$100 + \$2.00 per acre for units of Government..
- X Reforestation Completed refers to acres of completed NIPF planting or seeding in which the agent provided direct technical advice or assistance, whether cost-shared or not. (Acres resulting from simply sending a tree order form do not count. Acres resulting from mailing an order form and giving specific species advice do count). Payment for reforestation completed shall not exceed \$350 per project completed by private sector; \$225 per project completed for Units of Government
- X Natural Regen Completed refers to those acres of NIPF natural regeneration completed in which the agent provided direct technical advice or assistance, whether cost-shared or not Payment for natural regeneration completed shall not exceed \$170 per project completed Non Government \$110 per project completed for Units of Government.
- X Regen Survey Completed refers to acres of regeneration surveys completed.
- X Completed T.S.I. refers to acres of completed timber stand improvement in which the applicant provided direct technical advice or assistance, whether cost-shared or not. Payment for TSI completed shall not exceed \$350 per project completed Non Government \$225 per project completed for Units of Government.
- X Wildlife Habitat Completed refers to acres of completed NIPF habitat improvement in which the applicant provided direct technical advice or assistance, whether cost-shared or not. Payment for Wildlife Habitat Mgmt. completed shall not exceed \$190 per project completed Non Government \$125 per project completed for Units of Government.
- X Water Quality Completed refers to acres of completed NIPF water quality projects in which the applicant provided direct technical advice or assistance, whether cost-shared or not. Payment for Water Quality practices completed shall not exceed \$350 per project completed Non Government \$225 per project completed for Units of Government
- X General Assistance refers to hours spent on activities which are proposal related, but not attributable to any particular result.

**Note for all the above items:** Payment will be made when completed plans and certifications are submitted, and only for those projects requested by and under the direction of the Contract Administrator. Payment includes all costs associated with providing technical assistance including landowner contact, project plan preparation, practice installation and follow-up.

#### MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Required minimum and maximum production levels allow a practical level of contract flexibility if there is more than one goal. All minimums will be assumed to be 75% of the goal unless otherwise indicated. All maximums will be assumed to be 125% of the goal unless otherwise indicated.

Modifications to the above assumptions might include situations where the goal is small. Another might be where it is imperative to fully meet the goal, in which case the minimum may equal the goal. Another may be where it is important to minimize an activity such as general assistance. In such a case the maximum may be equal to the goal and the minimum may be "o". The contractor must manage outputs to a) meet all the required minimums and b) not exceed any maximums. Otherwise the contractor may perform any prescribed activities within the minimum and maximum ranges until the funds are exhausted.

#### PLANNED AND COMPLETED (Needs and Performance)

Several implementation activities have been split to account for the differing time frames of the contract and the activity. The "Planned" portion of an activity involves those actions which result in a landowner committing to a project and signing up for cost-share if cost-share is to be used. These include landowner contacts, work with cost-share agencies, and project plan preparation.

The "Completed" portion of an activity involves those actions that result in a landowner fully implementing a project which was already committed. Some "completed" actions are landowner contacts, vendor contacts, and work with cost-share agencies. The contractor and state may agree to either the "Planned" or the "Completed" portion, or both, or neither. The landowners serviced are not necessarily restricted to those who have received a stewardship plan from the contractor. In all cases, to receive payment for work performed for planned and completed practices, each item must be approved by the contract administrator <u>prior</u> to starting the work. In addition, payment will not be made for work performed that is covered under another agreement or program.

#### PAYMENT RATES

The State will pay the Contractor at the "STATE'S SHARE RATE" for each unit successfully completed. The Contractor has the choice of delivering any combination of the approved activities between the minimum and maximum ranges at the specified rates until the contract funds are expended.

The STATE'S SHARE RATE will be the maximum payment allowed for each activity.

NOTE: A DNR-Forestry employee who concurs with the proposal and agrees to serve as contract administrator must also be named and must sign the proposal.

If a unit of government is planning to use a private contractor for technical assistance, then the rate caps and rating criteria for consultants will be used. I.e. \$4.50 per acre.

## **Rating Criteria for Technical Assistance Grants**

(Used to rank proposals for discussion by the Forest Stewardship Committee)
(Not to be completed by applicants - provided for your interest only)

The 30 member state Forest Stewardship committee selects the proposals recommended for funding. The following criteria are suggested as a method to rank proposals. However, each committee member makes his or her own decisions that cumulatively result in the committee's funding recommendation.

## Focus of Technical Assistance / Targets

Grants should stress field technical assistance to private landowners and be limited to the Forest Stewardship Program.

- ! No less than 80% of the funds should be used for the following:
  - \* Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan preparation
  - \* Woodland Inventory and fieldwork necessary for implementation of Stewardship Incentives Program practices
  - \* Project plan preparation
  - \* Regeneration Surveys of Stewardship Plantings with written recommendations for follow-up work.
- ! No more than 20% of the funds should be for the following activities:
  - \* Field days or presentations
  - \* General forestry assistance to non-Stewardship participants
  - \* Preparation of articles or news releases
  - \* Assisting existing staff with Stewardship Program Implementation

# **Technical Assistance Quality**

Quality service is extremely important. While the quality of the work to be performed cannot be measured as part of the rating, it is imperative that the technical assistance meets the needs of the landowners. The work must also be acceptable under peer review of other technical providers. A bonus is being provided to encourage quality.

#### **Technical Assistance Cost Effectiveness**

Matching Funds: Although not required, matching funds will likely affect the rating system by lowering the "States Share Rate". The rating system is designed to give preference to those contracts that have the lowest cost to the state.

Projected cost effectiveness will be considered in rating proposals. The "State's Share Rate (\$/Unit)" for each category will be used to rank the proposals. However, the final decision combines all aspects of the proposal, not just cost.

Rating criteria for Technical Assistance Contracts (cont.)

The "State's Share Rate (\$/acre)" for Forest Stewardship plan preparation will be used to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the proposal as follows:

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Cost per acre of the plan - 60% 0 - $1.00 60 points
$1.01 - $2.00 45 points
$2.01 - $3.00 35 points
$3.01 - $4.00 25 points
$4.01 - $4.50 0 points
>$4.50 0 points
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Note: The Maximum rate for non-government proposals is \$200 + \$4.50 per acre, for units of government it is \$200 + \$2.00 per acre. When rating proposals from Units of Government, the rate listed on Attachment B will be doubled to determine the points earned.

**Cost of Practice Implementation – 10%** 

Ratio of Plan Writing to General Forestry Assistance – 10%

**History of Plan Writer's Performance – 5%** 

**Special Considerations** – **15**% - Proposals addressing unique or documented special local concerns will receive a higher priority provided that the issues or problems cannot be addressed through typical or customary technical assistance delivery procedures. Proposals within this category should write in the Objectives part of their Project Description the need for specialized assistance and the justification for such a request. Proposals meeting the above criteria would receive 1-15 points.

END OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MATERIAL